



## Preventable Fishing Violations

Most anglers understand and follow Ontario's Fishing Regulations, but every year Conservation Officers see some common violations committed by anglers that can be easily avoided.

### Common and Preventable Fishing Violations:

1. **Transport of live fish, other than baitfish, taken from Ontario waters by sport fishing.** A special licence is required from MNR to transfer live fish or live spawn from one body of water to another or to transfer or stock any fish into Ontario's waters. These regulations are in place to prevent the harmful movement of native species, and the introduction of invasive fish species, fish parasites or fish diseases into new waterbodies.
2. **Fishing without a licence.** Everyone who wishes to fish in Ontario must have a fishing licence. There are some special provisions where other documents such as a disabled person parking permit issued under the Highway Traffic Act and a CNIB Identity Card can take the place of a fishing licence,. As well, if a resident of Ontario or Canada is under the age of 18 or over the age of 65, any licence, permit, certificate or ID card issued by any province, territory or Government of Canada that shows their name and date of birth is deemed to be a fishing licence.
3. **Possessing more fish than permitted by your fishing licence or the fishing quota.** Catch and retain and possession limits may vary by region, fisheries division, individual body of water, or even parts of a body of water. You must determine your "daily" fishing limit for the waters you intend to fish and follow these limits. Remember you may only catch your own limit – there are no provisions for "party" fishing or for excluding fish that you may have consumed or plan to consume that day.
4. **Angling with more than the permitted number of lines.** Depending on the part of Ontario where you are angling, you may be permitted to use one or two lines. The number you can use may vary depending on whether you are angling in open water or through ice, from a boat or from shore, while trolling or stationary, or even what waters you are angling in. You must ensure that you know the equipment restrictions and comply with these rules.
5. **Failing to carry angling licence on person.** It is an offence not to carry your licence with you when you are angling or to fail to produce your licence to a conservation officer on request. Even if you have a licence you may be charged with this offence if you leave your licence at home or in your vehicle. Always check to ensure you have your fishing licence with you before you hit the waters!
6. **Angling during closed times.** It is an offence to even attempt to catch any fish species during the closed season for that species – even if you are planning on releasing the fish immediately. Bass are particularly vulnerable to closed season angling and thousands, perhaps millions of bass fry are lost annually because of this unlawful practice.
7. **Fishing during closed time in a fish sanctuary.** There are more than 800 sanctuaries in the